

Shelton State Courier

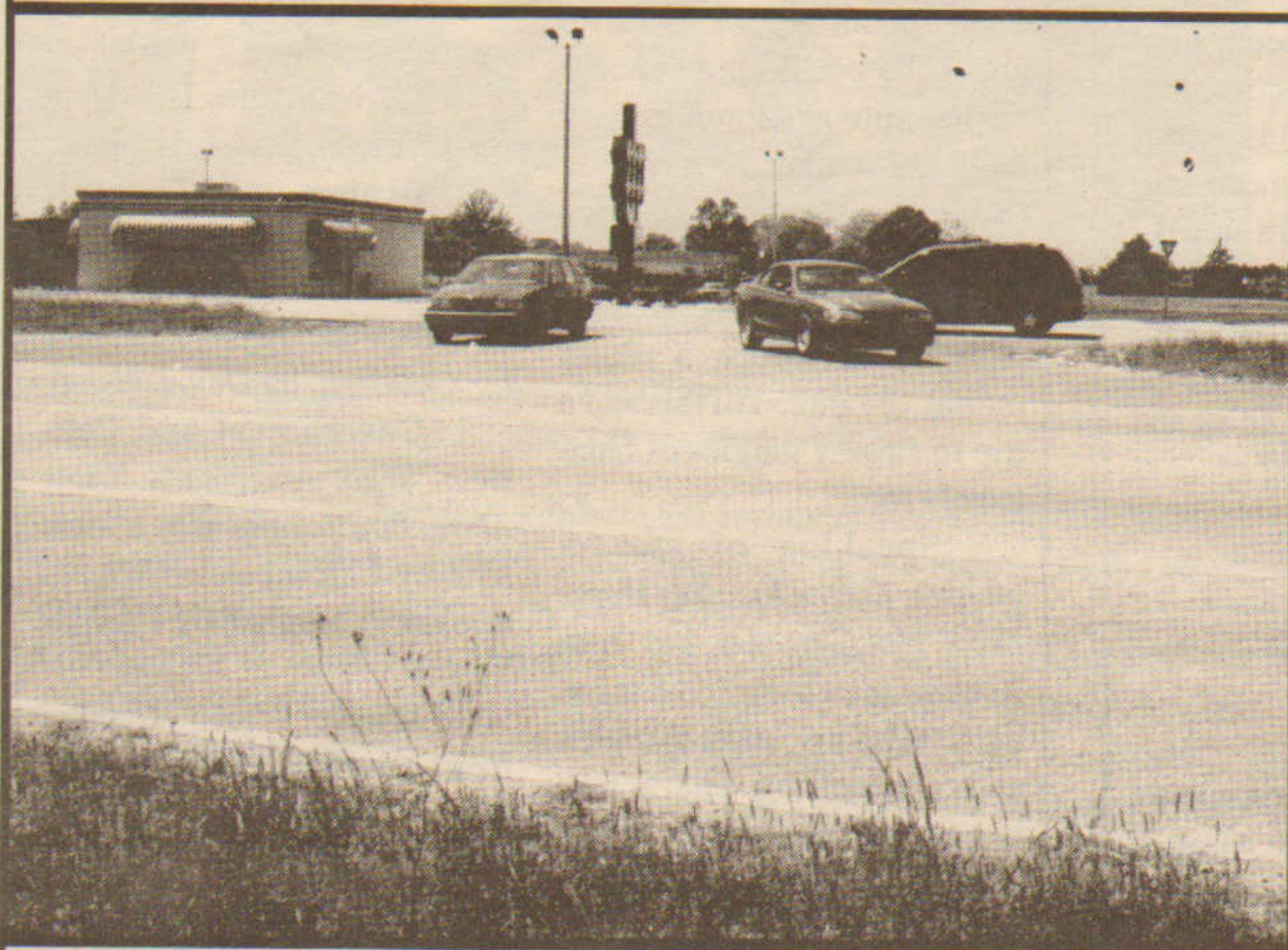
“Building Our Sense of Community”

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 5, Number 7

Shelton State Community College April 30, 2001 - May 30, 2001

Beware the commute...



By all accounts one of the trickier spots in the commute to Shelton is the new intersection at the Taco Casa. President Rick Rogers urges everyone to be careful...

By Brooke Oliver

Two students who attended Shelton State were recently killed in separate car accidents. Chris Bentley, 23, of Dolomite and Ebrahim Rajab, 21, of the country Bahrain were the victims of the wrecks. Bentley's happened on McFarland Blvd. and Rajab's was at the Taco Casa intersection of Hwy. 69.

A state trooper who worked the accident on Hwy. 69 said he could not give any information because it was still under investigation.

President of Shelton, Dr. Rick Rogers, said in an interview, "We are working with city and county officials on traffic regulation for the area and we are requesting additional officers

to patrol the area."

It's unknown if the students were wearing seatbelts or not. Alabama Department of Public Safety (DPS) has statistics on seat belt users. Do it right and you won't collide with the windshield or steering wheel where 38 percent of all crash victims die; or, lose control and crush other passengers, the cause of 20 percent of auto crash deaths.

Seventy-five percent of the people who are thrown from the vehicle are killed.

Seven out of 10 people will be in a traffic accidents in the next five years. One out of three will be in a serious accident sometime in their lifetime. Those are only a few facts. To be on the safe side slow down, buckle up, and watch for others around.

CityFest means Partytime!

By Leigh Hagler and Justin Ellis

No one can deny this year's International CityFest and Weindorf will be one whale of a bash.

Two American music legends—B.B. King and Willie Nelson—are the feature performers. This year's CityFest will be May 4-5, changing from the traditional fall dates to a more enjoyable and temperate weekend. "Ticket sales have gone through the roof," said Gene Poole, one of the founders and organizers of the festival. Poole attributes the increase to the date change and the legendary performers.

CityFest began 15 years ago. The idea came from the city of Tuscaloosa, John Curry, Gene Poole and Mike Spiller. The first band, Swing Medallions, played on a stage under the flagpole in the center of what is now called CityFest Square.

This year CityFest should be the best one yet. Art displays are going to be brought from outside the gates to

inside the festival site, near the Weinsdorf area. The children's area is going to be moved from the bottom of the hill to the parking lot of the Cotton Club, the former Old Train Station. Mercedes-Benz's Weindorf "will be bigger and better" says Gene Poole.

Meanwhile, the elements that have made CityFest a success continue. The Weindorf, which features sights, sounds and tastes of Germany, will offer beverages and food in an authentic German wine village. The down-home barbecue is, according to Poole, the third-largest cook-off in the nation. Which will be one of the big features of this year's festival.

This year's CityFest sponsors and coordinators have as a main goal to make enough money to pay back and help with the Children Hands On Museum, Focus on Senior Citizens and the city of Tuscaloosa.

CityFest cont'd on pg. 3

Pokey chooses Bama



At a press conference on April 20, AJCCC player of the year Rodney "Pokey" Bias announced that he would play basketball at the University of Alabama next year.

"He had a lot of options like Georgia, Ole Miss and Kentucky," head

coach Barry Mohun said. "But I think in his heart it was always Alabama."

Bias was joined at the press conference by his mother, coordinator of athletics Susan Mohun, Shelton head coach Barry Mohun, Buccaneer teammates and president Rick Rogers.

Sheltoniana Which Can
Be Found Nowhere Else

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the Courier's ads

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Testing yields poor results, says freshman

By Nikedra Lavendar

As the school year comes to an end, many high school students are preparing to take standardized tests, which will determine whether some can graduate.

According to Monty Neill of the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, standardized tests have long been used, especially throughout the Southern United States. Yet the South has the worst performing school systems in the nation.

On the other hand, many agree that such test help by identifying troubled students and failing schools. However,

some students don't perform well on high-pressure exams that mainly focus on memorization.

Michael J. Intinoli, a college professor of 30 years said in an article, "I've observed that foreign students for whom English is a second language often write better than native-born students."

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only about a third of the country's 4th, 8th, and 12th graders are proficient readers; this now raises the question of what happened to the value of our school systems?

The Alabama High School Exit Exam is not flawless. The exit exam seems merely a sub-

stitute for schooling.

The graduation exam asks for students to recall very specific trivial facts. Most adults with college degrees could probably not pass the exam; and if that's so, many students ask why is it necessary?

Overall, when education is reduced to test coaching, most real learning is eliminated. Does this mean students will only learn how to take tests, or will they learn skills needed for the "real world," such as communication skills, writing, reading and reasonable thinking?

Future Issues

This is the seventh *Courier* of the year. We will publish twice each month in September, October and November. One per month is set for May, June, July, August, December and January, 2002. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the *Courier* editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Eye Chart in the Sky

Believe it or not, the night time sky has its very own eye chart to test the sharpness of your vision! It is a double star system that is very easy to find and both stars can only be seen if one has 20/20 vision!

A double star system is simply two stars that orbit each other and are officially referred to as a binary star system. Most of these star systems require a telescope to differentiate the two stars and some even require more complex instrumentation.

As a matter of fact when one looks up at night, approximately two thirds of the stars that you see are actually mul-

tiple star systems with most being binary, but some are even three or four star systems! This means that our star, the Sun, is somewhat unique, since it falls into the one-third of stars that are single stars!

The binary star system that will test your eye sight does not require a telescope to observe the two stars but can be seen with the naked eye! To find this star system, simply locate the most familiar constellation in the sky the Big Dipper, officially referred to as Ursa Major by looking in the northeastern part of the sky. The Big Dipper is upside down this time of the year but is still easy to find! The

double star system is in the middle of the curved handle of the Big Dipper. If you have 20/20 vision and look very closely at the middle of the handle, you will be able to see the bright star, Mizar, and its dim companion star, Alcor!

Native Americans referred to the Big Dipper as the Big Bear and used this double star system to test their children's eye sight! One can only imagine how dark the skies must have been before the light pollution of modern times!

Keep looking up, check out Alcor and Mizar, and see if you really have 20/20 vision!

Off the Shelf . . .

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

Once more, into the cauldron. Anne Rice turns in her 22nd (count 'em 22!) novel about the occult and chances are her imps and familiars will howl for another 22 more. In this one, *Merrick*, she has mixed her cast with New Orleans witch Merrick crossed with David Talbot, a nearly mortal vampire. All this and a trip to steamy jungles of Guatemala too.

Speaking of steamy jungles, *Fierce Invalids Home From Hot Climates*, has Tom Robbins presenting us what has been called his "most complex and compelling character" known only as Switters. Quite a claim for someone in a Tom Robbins novel.

And now just returning from her previous foray into the Congo in the award-winning, *The Poisonwood Bible*, we have Barbara Kingsolver (she's state-side this time) bringing us *Prodigal Summer*. Where reclusive biologist Deanne Wolfe spends her time

watching the forest from an isolated cabin in the remote mountains. Until the stillness of her lifestyle is broken by the appearance of a young hunter named Eddie Bondo.

Sports: *Legends of American Dance and Choreography*, by Carin T. Ford; *Fair and Foul*, by Stanley D. Eitzen; *Bird Watching*, by Larry Bird.

Drama and Theatre: *The Right to Write*, by Julia Cameron; *The Arts Equation*, by Bruce D. Taylor; *Theatre for Children*, by David Wood.

Government and Politics: *What Americans Know About Politics and Why it Matters*, by Carpini Delli; *Migrations and Cultures*, by Thomas Sowell.

Music: *A Brahms Reader*, by Michael Musgrave; *Piano Roles*, by James Parakilas; *40 Songs for Voice and Piano*, by Henry Purcell.

Art: *Reading Egyptian Art*, by Richard Wilkinson; *Art Nouveau*, by Susan Sternau; *Monet by Himself*, by Claude Monet; *What is Painting?*, by Julian Bell; *Theatres & Opera Houses*, by Terri Hardin.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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CityFest cont'd from pg. 1

Although one big attraction to CityFest is the German *Weindorf*, the sale of German beers and wines, people under age will be under constant watch by the ABC board, undercover police officers and hired security. "We do not want any sort of incidents occurring," said Gene Poole.

CityFest tickets are still on sale through TicketMaster, and many other locations. Advance prices are \$15 for a weekend pass; at the gate, they're \$15 a night.

Children 6-12 are \$5 in advance or otherwise \$5 a night. The consensus opinion is that with the legendary performers, it will be worth the money.

Special thanks to Mercedes-Benz, Budweiser, Pepsi, JVC and Uniroyal Goodrich and the Tuscaloosa News along with Gene Poole, Laurie Blount, Mike Spiller and others. This year's CityFest will be a success in more ways than one. Mark your calendars, this year CityFest will be one to remember for years to come.



B.B. King and Willie Nelson are legends lined up for this year's downtown block party. CityFest picture is by Vicki Richardson



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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Buccaneer baseball and softball head into tournament action

By Tom Canterbury

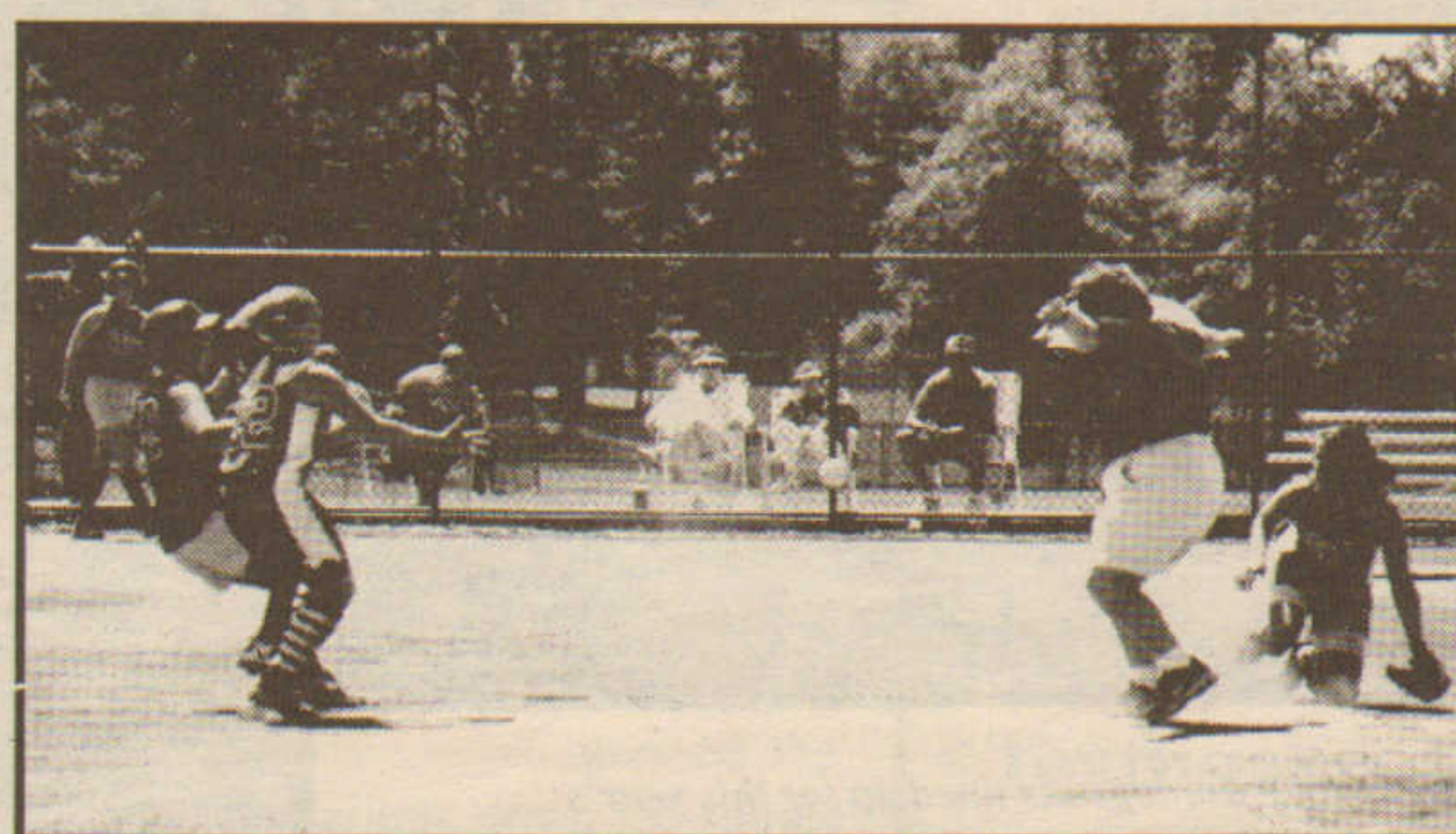
The Shelton State baseball team is looking to continue a very successful regular season through the state championship tournament.

The Buccaneers have compiled a 35-14 record, and are just two games away from clinching a regular season championship.

The Buccaneers are ranked sixth in the nation and are the defending regular season champions in region XXII.

Shelton finishes up their regular season with two away dates at Beville-Fayette on Tuesday, May 1 and at Meridian on Wednesday May 2. The team then heads to Gadsden on Saturday May 12

for the AJCCC Division II tournament.



It's a close play! Lady Bucs third baseman Lisa Farley and shortstop April Montgomery battle for the out at third against Northwest-Shoals

The Shelton State Lady Buc fast-

pitch softball team's season, on the other hand, has not been quite as successful. As of Thursday, April 26, the team's record was a lowly 15-27, marked by a lengthy losing streak at the end of the year.

"I know our numbers are not a big indicator of this, but we really

have come out of our hitting slump," head coach Dixie Terry said. "We are playing better and we're going to start winning some of these close games."

All season long, Shelton has lacked that timely hit in crucial situations. They have played well defensively and has been solid pitching-wise, especially from Selina Rester, but cannot seem to win those 4-3 nail-biters.

The Lady Bucs finished up their regular season the weekend of April 27-29 with away dates at Jeff Davis, Alabama Southern and Faulkner State. The will then head to their state tournament on May 3.

"We're in the tournament," Terry said. "I think we have a chance to surprise some people."

Freshmen lead golf team

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State golf team is heading to regional competition on April 30 with three freshmen leading the way. Calle Andren, Jason Davidson and Pope Spruiell have been the most consistent and best scorers on the team this year.

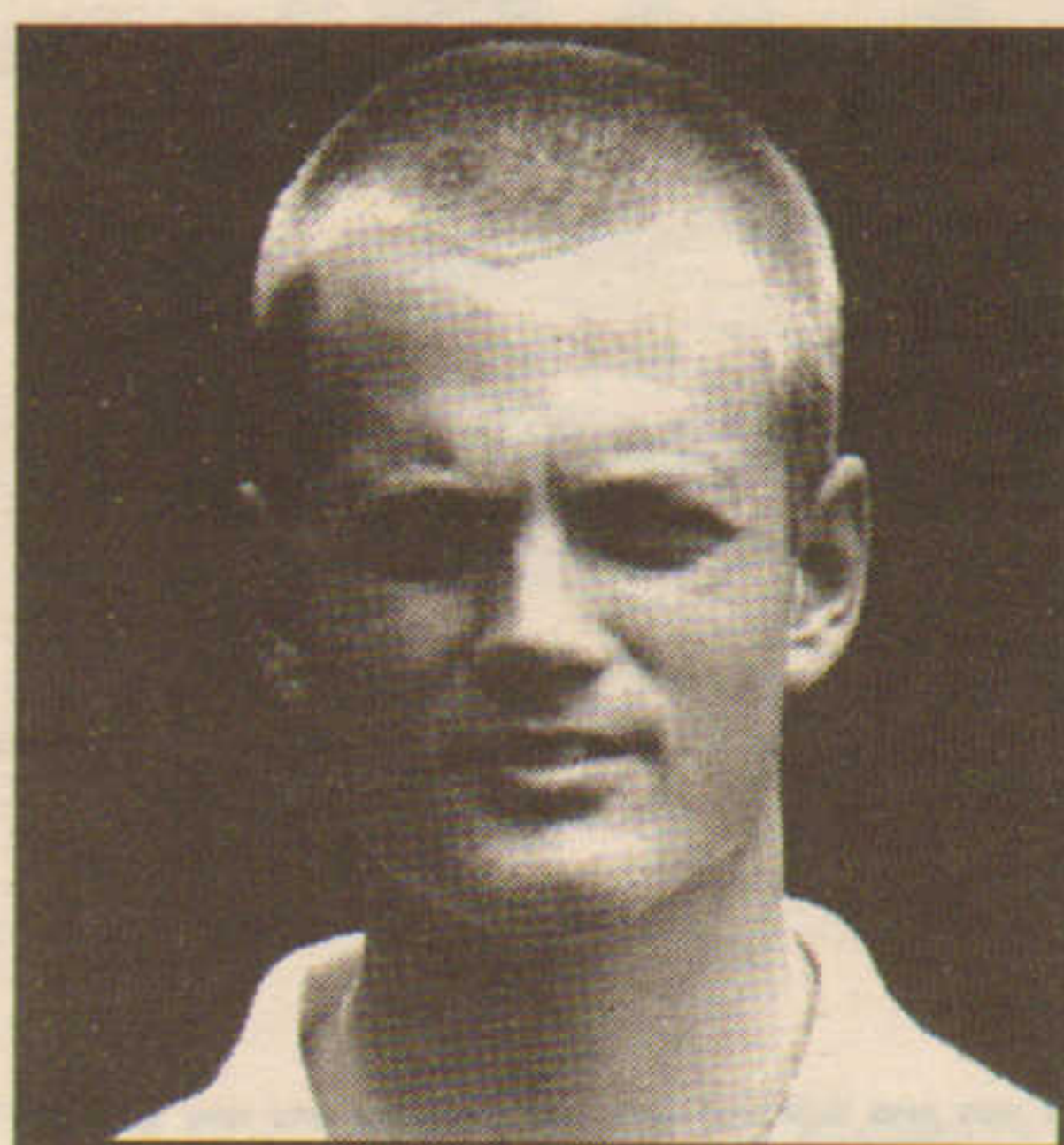
"Those three have stepped up on and off the course," fiery head coach Matt Terry said. "They've had the best finishes in tournaments this year."

Andren, an international student from Sweden, moved here in August and has had to adjust his game.

"The biggest change for me was the heat," Andren said. "In Sweden we had 65-degree summers and then when I got here in August it was over 100

degrees."

"Calle has worked the hardest on the team to get better," Terry said.



Buc golfer Calle Andren, a leader

"My work ethic is the best part of my game," Andren said.

This season, Andren was named to three all-tournament teams, won a tournament and had a season low score of 68. Davidson was on two all-tournaments and had a season low 66. Spruiell finished in the top ten in seven tournaments and

had a season low of 68.

The team has had two bad tournaments going into regionals, but Terry remains hopeful.

"I think we can surprise ourselves and others and make a good showing," Terry said.

New cheerleaders chosen

A group of eleven men and women will join three returning members to form the 2001-02 edition of the Shelton State cheerleading squad. The team was selected after a weekend clinic and tryout process which was held April 20-22. This year's team members are:

Whitney Batchelor, Holt High School
Kendall Crawford, Lamar High School, Vernon
Stormie Duncan, Holt High School
Shea Gann, Tuscaloosa County High School
Bekah Gentry, Prattville High School

Tiffany Holloway, Rogers High School, Florence
Jen Hood-returning
Rob Leonard, Tuscaloosa County High School
Tara Leonard, returning
Isaac McCorkle, Central High School
Brandon Prince, Hillcrest High School
Amy Shaw, returning
Bridget Thomas, Rogers High School, Florence
Carrie Woods, Hillcrest High School
Tracey Branch is the sponsor for the upcoming season.

Scholar's bowl falls short

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State scholar's bowl team finished in third place at the Alabama state competition in Montevallo on April 20. Northwest-Shoals Community College won first place.

Although they did not achieve their state championship goal, the team still had a very successful year. They won

both state qualifying tournaments, finished in the top three in two national tournaments, and for the third straight year hosted their own tournament.

Team members are: Jared Lane (captain), Paul Pedram, Tesh Diggins, John Dickey, John Hays, John T. Hubbard and Tom Canterbury. The team is coached by Diane Layton, who is assisted by Chop Barnett.

On April 20, K-12 schools won the tug of war

By Ben Curry

Proration is still a word popping up in the daily news associated with education in Alabama. It's not the word educators and legislators want associated with education in Alabama. They would rather Alabama be noted for "the highest graduation requirements in the nation," the Alabama Reading Initiative, or "standardized test scores on the rise."

Legislators in Alabama have been intent on mandating higher accountability in public schools, but they haven't faced the problem of funding it all.

About 86 percent of the money that goes into Alabama's Education Trust Fund (the fund that supports K-12 schools, colleges, universities, post-secondary schools, and dozens of museums and other groups) comes from sales and income taxes. Budgets, however, are based on estimates of what revenues will be collected from taxes earmarked for the ETF. So when the economy slumps and taxes are less than what was expected, the governor must declare proration, or reduce the amount of money allocated from the ETF. In the last 50 years it has happened

14 times and proration has ranged from 1% to 14%. And if Alabama continues to rely on fluctuations in the country's economy to fund education, it's going to happen again.

How has the state of Alabama reacted to the prospect of proration? Not by figuring out a more stable way to fund education. No, legislators, educators, special interest groups, or politicians have chosen to draw a line in the dirt and put K-12 public schools on one side, and colleges and universities on the other. From the beginning it has been a fight over which group should suffer more.

On April 20, K-12 schools won the tug of war. Governor Siegelman ordered cuts of 3.76% for K-12 schools and 11.17% for the other side.

Siegelman cites a 1995 law banning proration of salaries for K-12 public school employees as his incentive. Paul Hubert, executive secretary of the Alabama Education Association, said that if the governor hadn't decided that way, the teachers group would have sued him.

Originally, administrators on both sides assumed they were looking at across-

Editorial

the-board proration of 6.2 percent. That figure would have meant a cut in this year's state spending for K-12 schools by \$180 million. The 3.76% cut will reduce that to \$109 million.

The other side would have been cut by \$86 million at 6.2%. The 11.7% will mean a cut of \$157 million.

When did this become a contest to see who has to suffer the most? Why do the people of Alabama assume there has to be suffering at all when it comes to funding education?

Both sides in the contest have undoubtedly been making cases for their causes. The Alabama Education Association has spent money on an ad campaign on television and in newspapers to protect funding for K-12. Such an advertising campaign could have gone in several directions.

The AEA could have put money into prime time to pressure legislators to come up with more equitable funding sources. It could have emphasized the need for all

concerned to work together. However, the AEA chose to put its money into a campaign to make colleges and universities look bad for taking money from K-12 school children. It chose to put itself against a part of itself, presenting colleges and universities as money wasters.

In fact, salaries for colleges and universities in Alabama are among the lowest in the region. The AEA also suggests that universities have millions of dollars of reserves. Much of those reserves are actually legally required to cover debts and building loans, and endowed funds are earmarked for specific uses such as scholarships and research. They can't be used for operating expenses. So an 11.17% proration will definitely job cuts and produce tuition increases.

The state of affairs presently puts K-12 education against college and university education, and universities/colleges against the governor. Who are the winners? Nobody really wins here. The losers are 730,000 kindergarten through 12th graders and 196,000 public college and university students.

PTK Mother's Day Flower Sale

Shelton State's PTK is helping Turning Point fight violence against women by selling mother's day flowers. The sale ends May 4. The cost is \$10 and can be picked up May 12 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the University Mall.

Every year more than 3-million children witness the abuse of their mothers at the hands of an intimate partner.

Boys who have witnessed abuse of their mothers are 10 times more likely to abuse female partners as adults. Children who witness abuse of their mothers exhibit behavioral and emotional problems similar to those experienced by physically abused children.

Turning point is a non-profit agency committed to providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in West Alabama.

Turning point services include: confidential safehouse for adult and child victims of domestic violence, 24-hour crisis line, individual counseling and support groups, court advocacy, case management, and speaker's bureau.

PTK asks everyone to help Turning Point put an end to violence against women.

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Erickson shares his *Gift* at annual alumni dinner meeting

By Shirley Friday

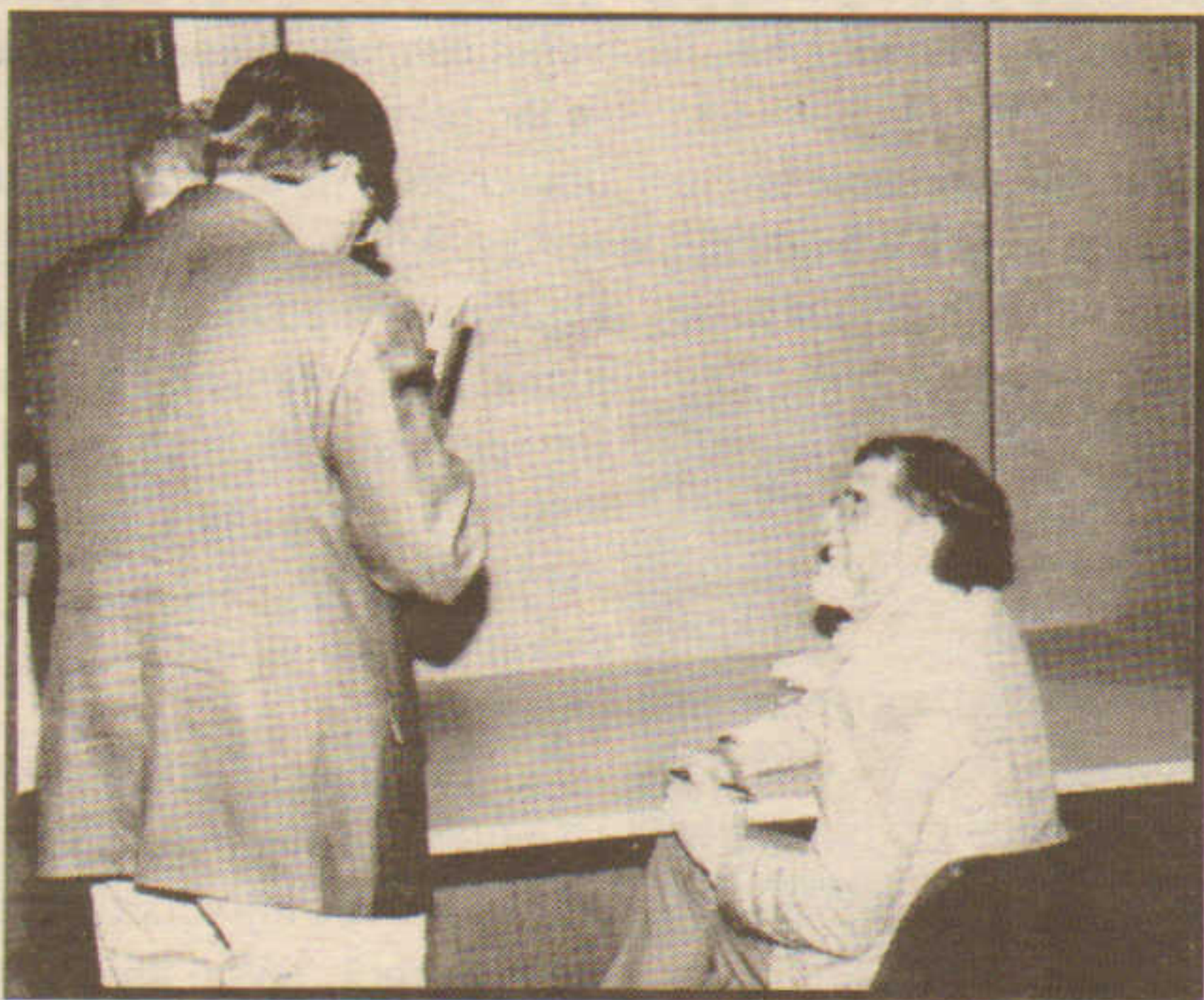
On the night of April 23, after a delicious dinner of tender roast beef and cheese, stuffed potatoes, guests at Shelton State's Alumni Association Meeting settled back and listened to author Ben Erickson pass along some wisdom from his book *A Parting Gift*.

Erickson's book is all about passing along wisdom. In it, his main character, the elderly and arthritic Mr. Davis hires 17 year-old Josh to write down his

memoirs. Mr. Davis conveys his memoirs to Josh through a series of action-adventure stories. But, planned throughout these stories are bits of thought-provoking wisdom.

For example, Erickson read aloud from a scene where Mr. Davis takes Josh to a library to share his love of books.

Davis tells Josh, "We're at the heart of the collective memory of all mankind." He goes on to tell Josh, "Every book you see around you is really a human mind distilled down to its essence. They are gifts to the world, just waiting to be opened and passed on to another generation."



Author Ben Erickson autographed many books before and after Shelton's annual alumni dinner

Passing down stories was the essence of Erickson's message. He told his audience he believes our relationships with elders are not what they should be. He stressed the

importance of writing down the stories our grandparents and elderly friends tell us before it's too late. He also encouraged the elderly to write down their own stories.

Erickson shared a favorite quote from *A Parting Gift* that he said sums up the theme of his book: "When an old man

dies, a library burns to the ground."

In addition to Erickson's compelling speech at the meeting, Mark Heinrich, Dean of Academics, announced recipients of Shelton's Chancellor Award. **An award given for outstanding contributions to the college**

Support staff, John Flanigan, Technical Faculty, Steve Fair, Academic Faculty Bill Aldridge, and Administrator, Bruce Bizzoco all received a framed pen and ink drawing of the college.

Also, Lucy Kubiszyn, introduced new officers which are the following: president, David Hill; vice-president, Jean Epps; secretary, Lisa Matherson, and treasurer, Ronda Shirley.

Vice-president of counties: Tuscaloosa County, Kristine Hill; Hale County, John Bradshaw; Greene County, Bettie

Bagby; Pickens County, Ronda Shirley; and Bibb County, Kathy Lancaster Brown. Alumni relations, Valerie Duncan; membership, Margaret Price. Scholarship, Don Hartley; president's advisory, Jim Meherg; committee members, Kristi Acker and Shirley Lipscomb; alumni relations, Jean Mack; programs/special events Beth Murphy; assistant chair/special events, Tamara Gainous; immediate past president, Pat Headrick; retiree advisor, Sharon Deck; faculty advisor, Jackie Williams; and director of alumni association, Lucy Kubiszyn.

Kubiszyn also announced the recipient of the Louise Pruett Alumni Scholarship in the amount of \$750. The recipient was Carol Henderson.

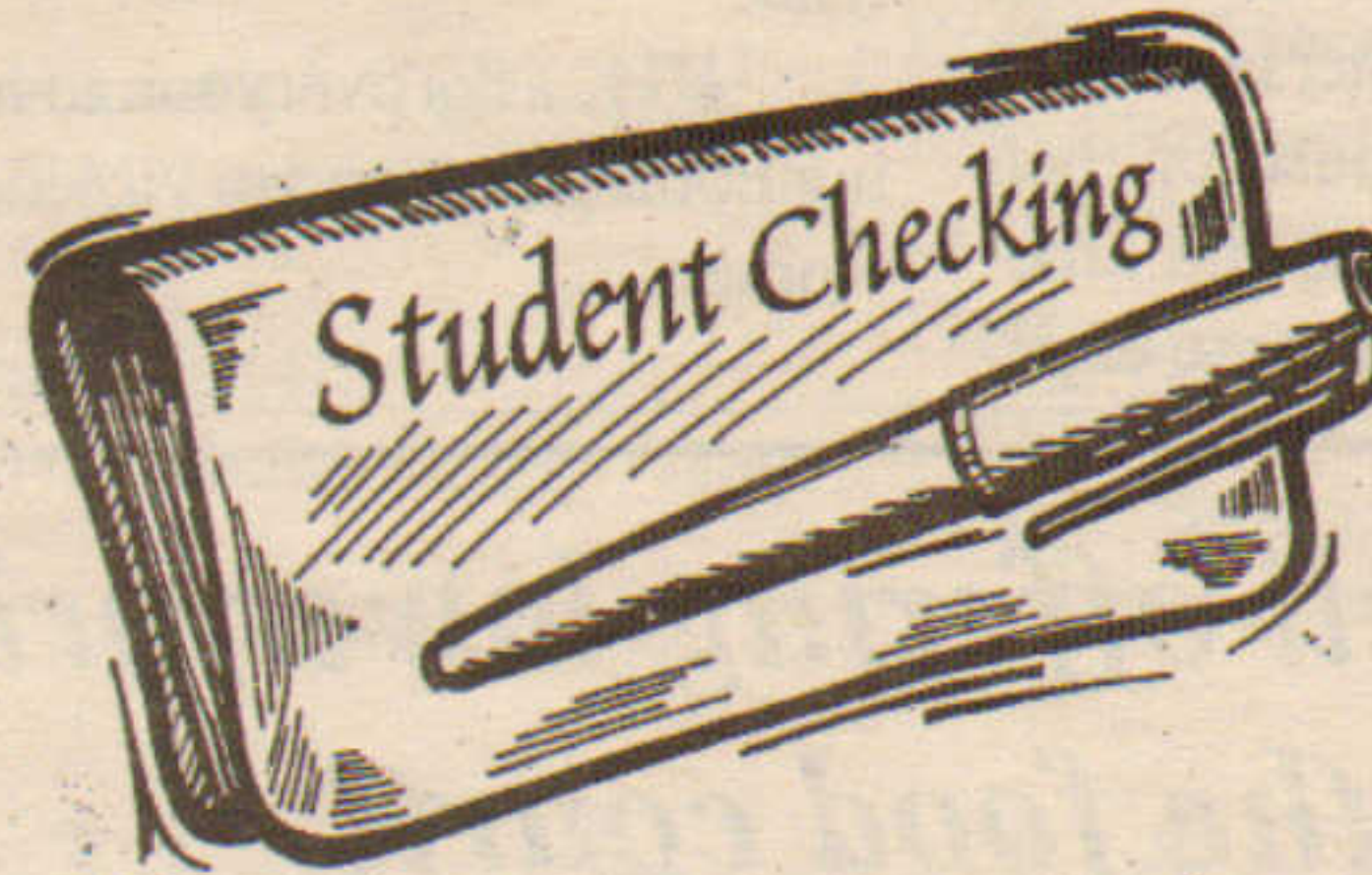
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Shelton backs art program



"Sweet Home Alabama!"—Students from Central Elementary show the fruits of arts education during a rousing performance at the recent Arts Forum

In an effort to increase public awareness and support for the arts and arts education in our community, the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa staged an Arts Education Advocacy Program on April 25 at the Bama Theatre.

Approximately 40 artists, musicians, community, leaders, arts educators and writers from the Tuscaloosa/Northport area spoke at the event.

The Tuscaloosa Arts Partners believes that there is a great and unrealized potential for arts education in

the community and that arts education deserves the full support of the entire community.

Included on the Tuscaloosa Arts Partners (TAP) board is Michael Carr of Shelton and Theatre Tuscaloosa.

In a letter to the public signed by Carr, TAP wrote that area businesses, parents, educators, civic and governmental leaders have a responsibility to provide all children with comprehensive, sequential arts education.

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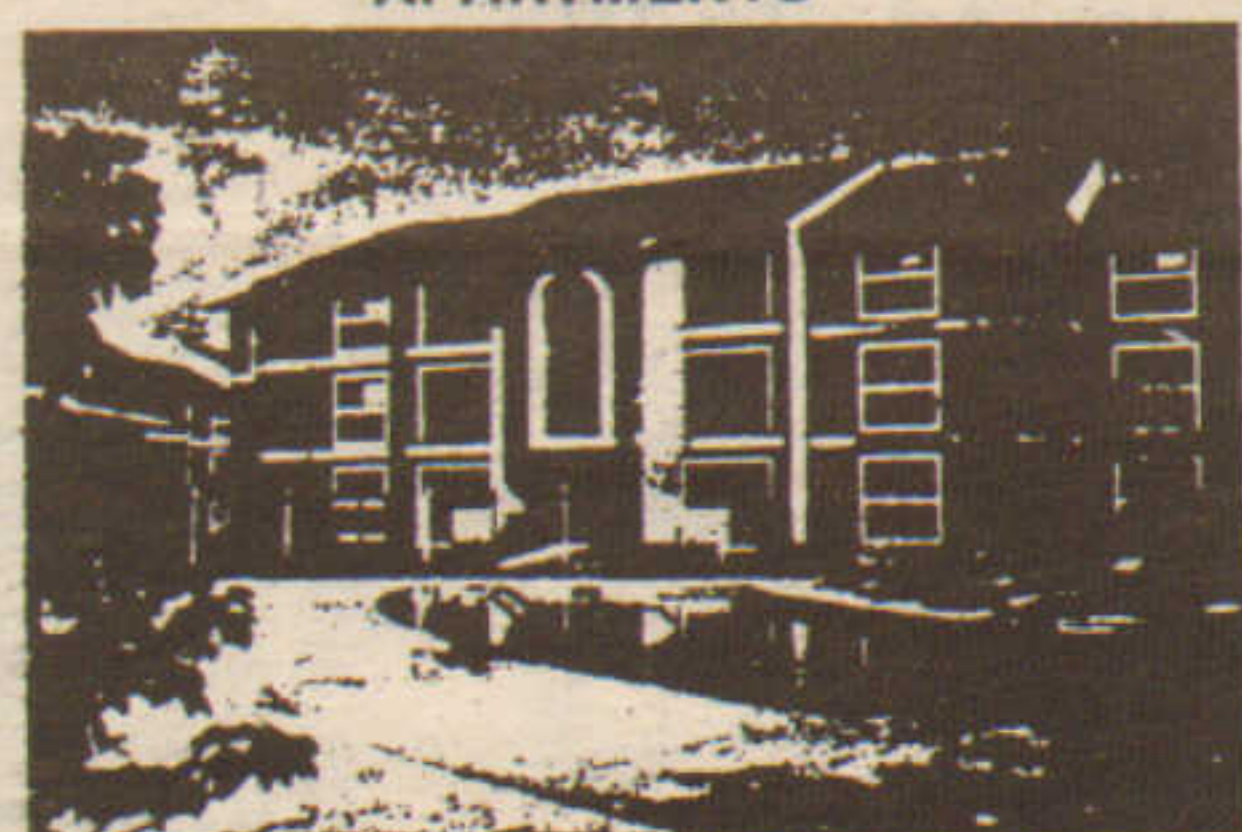
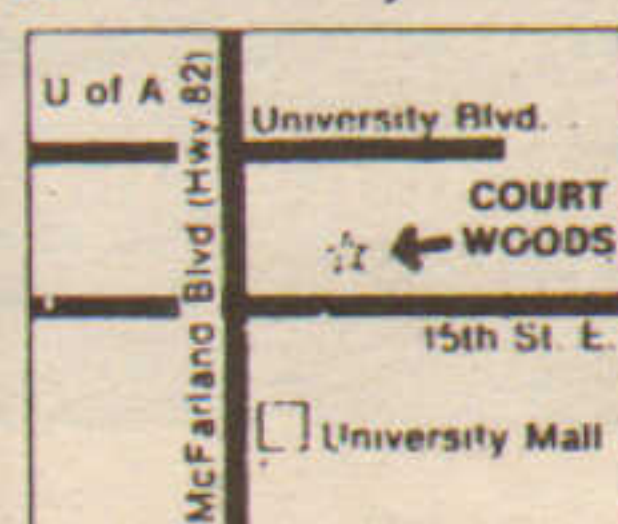


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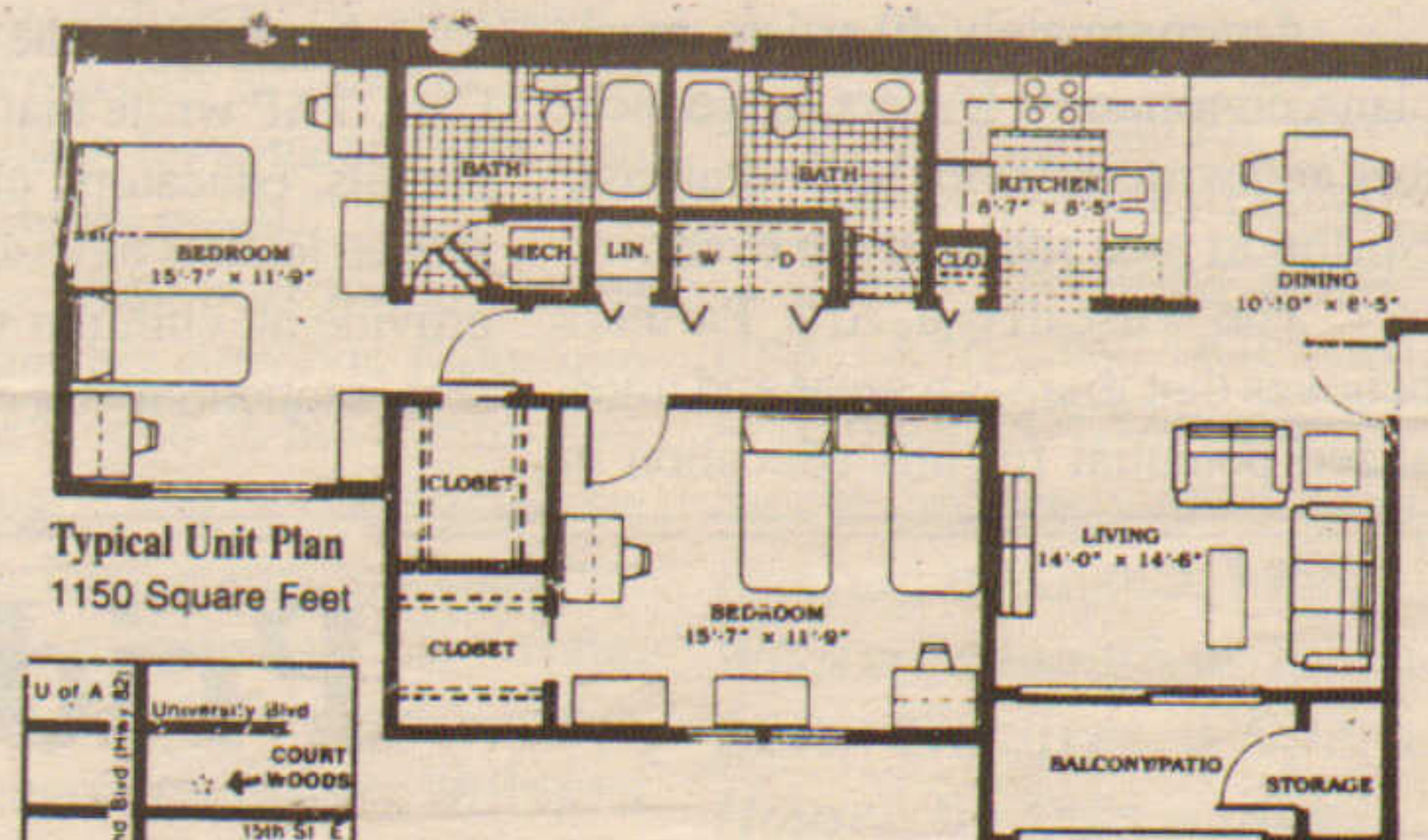
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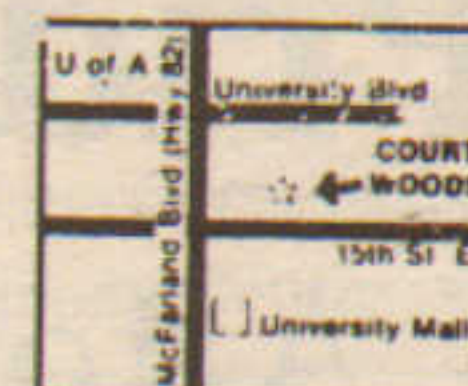
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Efficiency...\$225 per mo.

One Bedroom...\$295-310 per mo.

Two Bedroom...\$385

Great Neighborhood

Newly Redecorated

Close to Shopping Center

On Bus Line

2602 Claybrook Drive

556-5941